

November Facts of the Day 2013



**DEFENSE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE
DIRECTORATE OF RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT AND STRATEGIC INITIATIVES**

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National American Indian Heritage Month 2013

Date	Fact	Source
1	The month of November is designated by Congress and the president as a time to reflect on the rich traditions and accomplishments, as well as the suffering and injustices, that mark the history of American Indians and Alaska Natives. The theme for 2013, Guiding Our Destiny with Heritage and Traditions, was chosen by the Society of American Indian Government Employees.	http://nativeamericanheritagemonth.gov/
2	The first American Indian Day was celebrated in May 1916 in New York. Red Fox James, a Blackfeet Indian, rode on horseback from state to state, gathering endorsements from 24 state governments to have a day to honor American Indians. In 1990, President George H. W. Bush declared November National American Indian Heritage Month.	http://nativeamericanheritagemonth.gov/about/
3	As of the 2011 American Community Survey, the nation's population of American Indians and Alaska Natives was 5.1 million, including those of more than one race. They made up 1.6 percent of America's population. Of this total, about half were American Indian and Alaska Native only, and about half were American Indian and Alaska Native in combination with one or more other races.	http://www.census.gov/
4	In 1987, the Trail of Tears National Historical Trail was established. In 1838, more than 15,000 Cherokee Indians were removed by the U.S. Army from North Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, and Alabama. Held in concentration-like camps through the summer, they were then forced to travel over 1,000 miles under horrible conditions to Indian Territory, which is now Oklahoma. One of the darker events in American history, this catastrophic journey killed thousands of Indians, devastating American Indian cultures.	http://www.npca.org/parks/trail-of-tears-natl-hist-trail.html
5	American Indians and Alaska Natives are members of sovereign tribal nations that have a unique legal and political relationship with the federal government. This relationship has a strong historical foundation and has been recognized and reinforced by the United States Constitution, nation-to-nation treaties, federal statutes, case laws, executive orders, and other administrative policies.	http://www.nativelegalupdate.com/2011/05/articles/census-2010-native-americanalaskan-and-native-hawaiian-populations-show-growth/
6	Currently, there are 566 federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native tribes and more than 100 state-recognized tribes across the United States.	http://www.ncsl.org/issues-research/tribal/list-of-federal-and-state-recognized-tribes.aspx

7	The population of American Indians and Alaska Natives, including those of more than one race, is projected to be 8.6 million on July 1, 2050.	http://www.census.gov/
8	The term <i>Alaska Native</i> refers to Alaska's original inhabitants, including Aleut, Eskimo, and Indian groups.	http://www.50states.com/facts/alaska.htm
9	The term <i>Native American</i> refers to any member of the indigenous peoples of the Western Hemisphere.	http://www.census.gov/
10	According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 153,223 American Indians and Alaska Natives were veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces as of November 2011.	http://www.census.gov/
11	American Indians have participated with distinction in the United States military for more than 200 years. Their courage, determination, and fighting spirit were recognized by American military leaders as early as the 18th century.	http://www.history.navy.mil/faqs/faq61-1.htm
12	President Obama signed into law the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013, increasing protections for American Indian women and other victims previously left vulnerable by gaps in the law. Currently, American Indian women are more than twice as likely to be victims of domestic violence as women of other races. A recent Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study found that 46 percent of Native American women have experienced rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by a partner.	http://www.whitehouse.gov/
13	Congress enacted the Indian Citizenship Act (also known as the Snyder Act of 1924), which granted citizenship to all Native Americans born in the United States after June 2, 1924.	http://nativeamericanheritagemonth.gov/
14	Between 1941 and 1945, more than 44,000 American Indians—out of a population of less than 350,000—served with distinction in both the European and Pacific theaters of World War II.	http://nativeamericanheritagemonth.gov/
15	Native Alaskan tribes belong to five geographic areas, are organized under thirteen Alaska Native Regional Corporations, speak 20 different languages, and have eleven different cultures.	http://www.aaanativearts.com/alaskan-natives/index.html
16	More than 42,000 American Indians, 90 percent of them volunteers, fought in Vietnam.	http://www.history.navy.mil/faqs/faq61-1.htm

17	Historically, Native Americans have the highest record of service per capita when compared to other ethnic groups. The reasons behind this disproportionate contribution are complex and deeply rooted in traditional American Indian culture. In many respects, Native Americans are no different from others who volunteer for military service. They do, however, have distinctive cultural values that drive them to serve their country.	http://www.history.navy.mil/faqs/faq61-1.htm
18	After World War II, American Indian Code Talkers returned to communities that were having difficult economic times. Jobs were scarce, as were opportunities for education or job training. Racism toward Indian people was common, and though they had served their country with distinction, Indian veterans could not eat or drink in some establishments—or even vote in some national or state elections.	http://nmai.si.edu/education/codetalkers/html/chapter6.html
19	Tribal colleges and universities are accredited higher education institutions located on or near Indian reservations. These institutions were established and are operated by American Indian tribes to educate Native people and preserve Native ways, giving students the opportunity to work toward a college degree while embracing who they are as Native people. There are 34 fully accredited tribal colleges serving more than 30,000 students, who represent more than 250 tribes from across the U.S., Mexico, and Canada.	http://www.collegefund.org/content/tribal_colleges
20	During World War II, more than 44,000 Natives, out of a total U.S. population of 350,000, served in the military. In 1942, the Navajo code talkers were formed, using the complex Diné language as a basis for an unbreakable code for tactical messages. Approximately 400 Navajo servicemen were recruited into the code talkers before the end of the war. Code talkers took part in every Marine Corps assault in the Pacific from 1942 to 1945.	http://www.doi.gov/index.cfm
21	President Barack Obama signed the Native American Apology Resolution into law on December 19, 2009. The Apology Resolution stated that the United States, “Apologizes on behalf of the people of the United States to all Native Peoples for the many instances of violence, maltreatment, and neglect inflicted on Native Peoples by citizens of the United States.”	http://www.whitehouse.gov/
22	What is the correct terminology: American Indian, Indian, Native American, or Native? All of these terms are acceptable. The consensus, however, is that whenever possible, Native people prefer to be called by their specific tribal name.	http://nmai.si.edu/explore/families/resources/didyouknow/#2

23	The U.S. Department of the Interior places a high priority on respecting the government-to-government relationship between the federal government and the federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native tribes. They support Indian self-determination, ensuring that the tribes have a voice in shaping the federal policies that directly impact their ability to govern themselves and to provide for the safety, education, and economic security of their citizens.	http://www.doi.gov/index.cfm
24	The American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978 was signed into law by President Jimmy Carter. This legislation protected and preserved the inherent right of American Indian, Eskimo, Aleut, and Native Hawaiian people to "believe, express, and exercise their traditional religions." In addition, it called for a yearly evaluation of the federal agencies' policies and procedures as they affect the religious rights and cultural integrity of Native Americans.	http://www.blm.gov/pgdata/etc/medialib/blm/wo/Planning_and_Renewable_Resources/coop_agencies/cr_publications.Par.77059.File.dat/78airfa.pdf
25	In 2009, the Interior Department distributed \$1.4 billion to more than 300,000 tribe members. The settlement resolved a 13-year-old dispute in which Indian tribes claim they were swindled out of billions of dollars in oil, gas, grazing, timber, and other royalties overseen by the Interior Department since 1887. The settlement also established a \$2 billion fund for a land consolidation program, which also incorporated a college and vocational school scholarship fund for American Indian students.	http://www.diversityinc.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/AmericanIndianTimeline.pdf
26	When the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor in December 1941, there were 5,000 Native Americans enlisted in military service. By January 1942, the DOD reports, 99 percent of all eligible Native American men had registered for the draft.	http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/article/a-brief-history-of-american-indian-military-service-115318
27	Founded in 1944, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) is the oldest, largest, and most representative American Indian and Alaska Native organization serving the broad interests of tribal governments and communities. NCAI, a non-profit organization, advocates for a bright future for generations to come by taking the lead to gain consensus on a constructive and promising vision for Indian Country.	http://www.ncai.org/about-ncai

28	<p>In 1972, the Alaska state legislature established the Alaska Native Language Center to research and document the state's 20 native languages. Internationally known as the major center for the study of the Yup'ik, Iñupiaq, Iñupiat, and Northern Athabaskan languages, the center houses an archival collection of more than 10,000 items, virtually all written in or about Alaska Native languages. Like every language in the world, each of those native languages is worthy of preservation, according to the mission statement of the Alaska Native Language Center.</p>	<p>http://www.nlm.nih.gov/nativevoices/timeline/533.html</p>
29	<p>The National Museum of the American Indian in Washington D.C. is the first national museum dedicated to the preservation, study, and exhibition of the life, languages, literature, history, and arts of Native Americans. Established by an act of Congress in 1989, the museum works in collaboration with the Native people of the Western Hemisphere to protect and foster their cultures by reaffirming traditions and beliefs, encouraging contemporary artistic expression, and empowering the Indian voice.</p>	<p>http://nmai.si.edu/home/</p>
30	<p>In 1976, Molly Hootch, a 16-year-old from the Yukon River village of Emmonak, and Anna Tobeluk, an 18-year-old from the village of Nunapitchuk, sued Alaska for failing to provide local high schools in predominantly Alaska Native villages. They argued that the state was discriminating against Alaska Native students and contributing to dropout rates. The signing of the Tobeluk Consent Decree committed the state to provide high schools in Alaska Native villages, leading to 105 high schools opening.</p>	<p>http://www.nlm.nih.gov/nativevoices/timeline/index.html</p>